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PFIZER VACCINE ALL SET TO GET U.S. EMERGENCY USE APPROVAL

An expert panel of the US Food and Drug Administration has said the shot's potential benefits seem to outweigh its risks

FORMAL NOD BY F.D.A. EXPECTED NEXT WEEK

"There is a clear benefit, and all we have on the other side is theoretical risks," said committee member Paul Offit. The drug now needs to be formally approved by the FDA. While the drug regulator is not necessarily mandated to accept the recommendations of the panel, it is expected to do so next week as the administration gears to ship millions of doses

DAILY COVID DEATHS IN U.S. CROSS 3,000

- The move to accelerate the Covid vaccine rollout comes in the backdrop of the daily Covid deaths in the US crossing 3,000
- The US' daily Covid toll is greater than that of the September 11, 2001 attacks (2,996 killed) and the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, in which 2,403 people were killed | PTI

3,00,363

AMERICANS HAVE SO FAR DIED OF COVID, ACCORDING TO WORLDOMETER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait along with farmers at a protest rally against the farm laws, on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, in Delhi on Friday | PTI

Protesters booked

The Delhi Police registered a case against farmers sitting on the Singhu border on December 7 for not following social distancing and various other sections

Challenging laws in SC

The Bharatiya Kisan Union has moved the Supreme Court seeking to intervene in a pending plea challenging the validity of the three farm reform laws

FARM LAWS

Beware of vested interests, govt advises farmers

Agitators to block Delhi-Jaipur highway, ensure toll-free travel across India today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi/Chandigarh

AHEAD of the farmers scaling up their agitation against the three contentious farm sector reform laws, the government on Friday sought to alert them about vested interests trying to appropriate their platform for anti-national activities.

The advisory came from Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, who made a fresh appeal to resolve the stand-off through dialogue.

Tagging a news report about posters coming up at the Tikri border protest site demanding the release of some activists arrested under various charges, Tomar tweeted, "Anti-social elements are conspiring to spoil the atmosphere of the peasant movement under the guise of farmers."

As for the farmer unions, they sought to put the headline-grabbing nationwide rail roko agitation in abeyance a day after making the threat, but said there was no rethink on plans to block the Delhi-Jaipur highway and making all toll plazas free for commuters across the country on Saturday.

In Punjab, farmer leaders intend to hold protests outside BJP's offices and those of Deputy Commissioners. The Congress, too, will stage a demonstration at the Shambu border abutting Punjab and Haryana simultaneously.

Bharatiya Kisan Union, Punjab (Rajewal) president Balbir Singh Rajewal said, "As of now there is no plan to stop trains across the country." The idea behind the rethink is to not inconvenience the public at large and lose their sympathy.

Tomar continued playing the waiting game, saying "Our proposal is with the farmers. They discussed it but we have not received any official reply yet." But Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said it was for the government to take the initiative. "They should tell us when and where they want to meet, as they did earlier. If they invite us, we will discuss it internally and take a decision," Tikait said. P9

Govt will bring ordinance on cow slaughter: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A day after the government held back from tabling the contentious Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill in the Legislative Council, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said an ordinance will be promulgated to give effect to it.

"We will bring in an ordinance (on cow slaughter). You know that the Council Chairman was not cooperating," the CM remarked. He also performed 'Gau Pooja' (cow worship) at his official residence 'Cauvery' here on Friday morning in the backdrop of the passage of the Bill in the Assembly.

"It is known worldwide that in Hindu dharma, cows are revered. In India, which is an agrarian country, animal husbandry is a source of income for agriculturists and cattle are used in farming activities too. Cows are considered an asset in the Indian culture. The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly, which further strengthens the existing law," he said.

He said that his government was committed to strengthening laws for protection of cows, and added that necessary arrangements will be made by setting up infrastructure for cows to be taken care of. "Ninety per cent of the state's people are happy with the Bill. We had talked about it (anti-cow slaughter law) in our election manifesto. In the previous tenure of the BJP government, we had brought in legislation against cow slaughter, but it was not given assent then. Now we are bringing it to effect once again," he said.

The CM also expressed reservations about Council Chairman K Pratapachandra Shetty's adjourning the House sine die. The government has decided to convene the House again on Tuesday, he added. "The Council Chairman doesn't have the powers to abruptly adjourn the House," the CM insisted.

Chief Minister B S Yeddiyurappa performs 'Gau Puja' at his official residence 'Cauvery' in Bengaluru on Friday | EXPRESS

BJP MLCs appeal to Governor against Council chairman

Six BJP members of the Legislative Council, led by minister Kota Sreenivas Poojary, formally lodged a complaint with Governor Vajubhai Vala at Raj Bhavan on Friday, against Council Chairperson K Pratapchandra Shetty. The members -- Ravi Kumar, Arun Shahapur, Mahantesh Kavatagimath, Ayanur Manjunath, and Tejaswini Gowda -- accused Shetty of adjourning the House sine die on Thursday, before completion of the day's agenda. P4

NASA

INDIAN-AMERICAN ON MANNED MOON MISSION

Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari, a USAF colonel, is among 18 astronauts who have been chosen by the space agency for its lunar mission | P20

EXPRESS READ

Rohit fit, to leave for Australia on Dec 14

New Delhi: India batsman Rohit Sharma on Friday cleared his fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. He will leave for Australia on December 14 to play in the Test series.

Biden, Kamala TIME's 'Person of the Year'

New York: US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have been named by the prestigious TIME magazine as '2020 Person of the Year' for changing the American story.

WITH NO BUSES, MOBILITY HITS PAUSE

OPD services hit in hospitals

Out-patient services were affected in many hospitals in Bengaluru between 6 am and 6 pm on Friday as medical professionals protested against the Centre's decision to allow post-graduate Ayurvedic doctors to perform certain surgeries. Resident doctors across the state supported the strike and staged a protest by holding placards saying 'no to mixopathy'. DETAILS | P3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

PASSENGERS bore the brunt of the strike by employees of state-run transport corporations, with bus services being disrupted across the state for the second day.

In the state capital, Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation services were completely halted whereas the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation operated 50 per cent of its schedules and other transport corporations operated only about 35 per cent of schedules on Friday.

Many commuters, including students, were stranded at the Kempegowda bus station and other bus terminals in Bengaluru. Passengers heading out from Bengaluru too were stuck.

Passengers stranded at the Kengeri Satellite bus terminus due to the strike, in Bengaluru on Friday | VINOD KUMAR T

The agitation was by and large peaceful barring a few incidents of stone-throwing on government buses at Nelamangala on the outskirts of Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga and Channapatna.

A majority of long-distance buses starting from Mysuru had to cut short their trips or terminate the services. However, city bus services were unaffected.

Passengers headed to Bengaluru, Mandya and Shivamogga from Tumakuru were left with no option but to crowd the few private buses that were operating. In Kolar, people had to depend on autorickshaws and taxis. Bus services in Chikkaballapur and Hassan districts were also affected during the day.

In Shivamogga, buses plied till 10 am, but services were suspended after miscreants pelted stones at a bus near Machenahalli. While services were stopped in Kalaburagi after 11 am, they were resumed after 4.30 pm. A bus that was on its way to Kalaburagi from Ganagapur was stoned near the Kalaburagi Bench of the High Court, leaving the driver with minor injuries. P2

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

(Figures in brackets are growth in September 2020 and October 2019, respectively)

RECOVERING LOST GROUND

(Figures in brackets are indices for September 2020 and October 2019, respectively)

Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation

INDIA'S FACTORY OUTPUT GROWS 3.6% IN OCTOBER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SIGNALLING what appears to be a sustained recovery, India's industrial production rose to an eight-month high of 3.6% in October on the back of pickup in manufacturing, consumer goods and power sectors. The IIP had contracted by 6.6% in October 2019.

However, experts warn it is too early to celebrate as the latest numbers are not so impressive considering the festive push and the low base last year.

"Coming on the base of a 6.6% contraction in October 2019, the 3.6% growth in the IIP in October 2020 is decidedly modest, and suggests that caution in the interpretation of the strength of the economic recovery is still warranted," Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA said.

According to data by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the manufacturing sector, which has a weightage of 77.6% in the IIP, recorded 3.5% in October. In the year-ago period, the sector had contracted 5.7%. Meanwhile, the consumer durables segment posted an impressive growth of 17.6% in October compared with 18.9% contraction in the same period a year ago.

MHA summons WB babus, Didi stalls

GOVERNOR SENDS REPORTS TO CENTRE

Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Friday he has sent a detailed report to the Centre. Castigating Mamata, he said, "The law and order situation in the state has been worsening with each passing day. Despite cautioning the chief minister and the administration, nothing has happened"

PRONAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

IN what could escalate the tension between the BJP-led Union government and the TMC regime in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday ordered her chief secretary and DGP to ignore the summons by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla had asked West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay and Director General of Police Virendra to be present themselves on December 14 to explain the law and order situation in the state in the wake of the attack on BJP national president J P Nadda's convoy on Thursday.

Bandopadhyay wrote to Bhalla saying he was "directed" to request the MHA to dispense with the presence of state officials in the meeting.

CONTINUED ON: P10

MANN KI BAAT

Dada's book: Sloppy Sonia, autocratic Modi

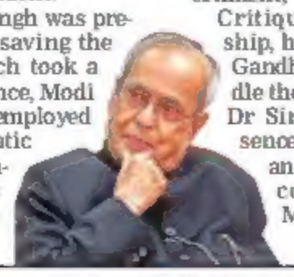
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi employed a rather autocratic style of functioning, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was pre-occupied with saving the coalition government, which took a toll on governance, and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was unable to handle party affairs, late President Pranab Mukherjee has written in the fourth volume of his autobiography to be released in January 2021.

Pranab, who wrapped up work on the memoir days before he passed away on August 31, feels "the party's leadership lost political focus after my elevation as President."

"While Dr Singh was preoccupied with saving the coalition, which took a toll on governance, Modi seemed to have employed a rather autocratic style of governance during his first term, as seen by the bitter relationship among the government, the legislature, and the judiciary. Only time will tell if there is a better understanding of such matters in the second term of this government," Pranab writes.

Critiquing Sonia's leadership, he says: "While Sonia Gandhi was unable to handle the affairs of the party, Dr Singh's prolonged absence from the House put an end to any personal contact with other MPs."



CMR UNIVERSITY

The Chancellor, Pro Chancellor, Provost, Vice Chancellor, Members of the Board of Governors, Board of Management and Academic Council of CMR University cordially invite you to the

5TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION

on 12th December 2020 | 10:00 AM

Venue: DWANI Auditorium, CMRIT Campus, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Bengaluru - 37

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. Abdul Nazeer
Judge, Supreme Court of India
will be the Chief Guest and deliver the Convocation Address

Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan
Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka,
Minister for Higher Education, IT and BT & Science and Technology &
The Pro-Visitor, CMR University
has consented to declare the convocation open and address the graduands

Shri K.C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.)
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha & Chairman, CMR Group of Institutions
will be the Guest of Honour and award the medals

Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy
Chancellor, CMR University
will preside over the convocation and confer the degrees

Please join the event virtually through zoom link:
https://zoom.us/j/97018142244?pwd=Wlg2VGdEN0VXZFNkUHYrUTJnN1ZkUT09
Passcode: Convo2020

Shri K.R. Jayadeep, Pro Chancellor
Dr. Tristha Ramamurthy, Provost & Vice Chancellor i/c
Dr. C.M. Bhaskar Reddy, Pro Vice Chancellor
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